

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 May 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000724

**OUTCOME:** 2 - Health Access and Support Services

**Topic:** Dialysis transportation

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Watt, Murray

**Question:**

Is the Department undertaking any work in relation to appropriate transportation for dialysis patients?

**Answer:**

Dialysis is considered a hospital service and is an ongoing state and territory government responsibility through the National Health Reform Agreement. State and territory governments provide patient assistance transport schemes in their jurisdictions. Details are available on state and territory health department websites.

To complement state and territory arrangements, the Commonwealth is providing approximately \$27.6 million (from 2014-15 to 2017-18) for a range of renal support activities in the Northern Territory, South Australia, and Western Australia.

This includes \$10 million to the Northern Territory Government for housing for Indigenous dialysis patients in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek and dialysis infrastructure in three remote communities. This funding enables Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in remote and very remote areas with chronic kidney disease to more readily access dialysis care as close to their community as practicable.

Support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with chronic health conditions, including chronic kidney disease, is also available under the Integrated Team Care (ITC) program. Funding can be used to expedite a patient's access to an urgent and essential allied health or specialist services where the services are not otherwise available in a clinically acceptable timeframe, such as transportation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients with chronic kidney disease who require dialysis and related medical services.